THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Government has accorded Go-Ahead sanction for Nation Range Project. Layout of facilities and preliminary design has been completed. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn for resettlement and rehabilitation of families likely to be affected. Work on these schemes has commenced.

(b) After acquisition of land, it will take about 7 years to make the range operational.

(c) As on date, time over-run in the project will result into upward cost revision by about 50 per cent.

Development of National Highways

2479. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the existing capacity of the National Highways;

(b) the current volume of traffic per day vis-a-vis the optimum capacity of National Highways; and

(c) the plans for development and expansion of National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The capacity of National Highways is expressed in terms of Passenger Car Units (PCUs) per day. The existing capacity of different National Highways varies according to the lane width, type of terrain, composition of traffic, etc.

(b) The volume of traffic carried by different National Highways varies from Section to Section. As per 1990 Traffic Census, the actual traffic on about 1/3 of the total length of 33,689 Kms of National Highways is more than the optimum capacity.

(c) The development of National Highways such as improvement of geometrics, widening, strengthening of pavement is a continuous process and improvement works are undertaken after being included in the Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing condition of the highway, *inter-se* priority on an All-India basis and availability of funds.

Construction of Bridge across Tungabhadra River near Singatalur, Karnataka

2480. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the construction of bridge across Tungabhadra river near Singatalur in Dharward District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to sanction funds therefor as and when the augmentation of Central Road Fund takes place; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Directives of RBI regarding Direct Cash Dealings

2481. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has advised all banks that no direct cash dealings be involved in bank drafts for amounts over Rs. fifty thousand;

(b) if so, the number/names of those banks which have already implemented RBI's directions and which have not; and

(c) the action Reserve Bank of India proposes to take against those banks which have not followed its directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all banks that demand drafts, mail transfers, telegraphic transfers and traveller cheques for Rs. 50,000 and above